

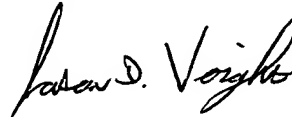
REMARKS

Claims 13-21 are pending.

Claims 13-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 13-17 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b,e) as being anticipated by Goodwin (U.S. 5,284,753) or Rava et al. (U.S. 5,545,531). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Goodwin or Rava et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Applicants have amended claim 13 to make it clear that the hydrophilic measurement zones (2) are surrounded by hydrophobic zones (1) which are in turn separated from one another by a hydrophilic area (5). This amendment finds support in Figs. 1-2 of the specification and at page 3, lines 27-32 and page 4, lines 16-20. The cited art does not teach of a hydrophilic area between the test wells to create separate hydrophobic zones.

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Respectfully submitted,
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